

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL SALES

Plaintiff(s),

v.

COUNTY OF VENTURA, et al.

Defendant(s).

CASE NO:
2:15-cv-03101-PSG-PLA

JURY TRIAL ORDER

**Final Pretrial Conference:
May 2, 2016 at 02:30 PM**

**Trial Date:
May 17, 2016 at 09:00 AM**

UNLESS OTHERWISE ORDERED BY THE COURT, THE FOLLOWING
RULES SHALL APPLY:

SCHEDULING

1. In General

All motions to join other parties or to amend the pleadings shall be filed and served by the cut-off date specified in the Scheduling Order.

2. Motions for Summary Judgment or Partial Summary Judgment

Motions for summary judgment or partial summary judgment shall be filed as soon as practical, however, in no event later than the motion cut-off date.

1 3. **Discovery Cut-Off**

2 The Court has established a cut-off date for discovery in this action. All
3 discovery shall be complete by the discovery cut-off date specified in the
4 Scheduling Order. **This is not the date by which discovery requests must be
5 served; it is the date by which all discovery is to be completed.**

6 In an effort to provide further guidance to the parties, the Court notes the
7 following:

8 a. **Depositions**

9 All depositions shall be scheduled to commence sufficiently in advance of
10 the discovery cut-off date to permit their completion and to permit the deposing
11 party enough time to bring any discovery motion concerning the deposition prior
12 to the cut-off date.

13 b. **Written Discovery**

14 All interrogatories, requests for production of documents, and requests for
15 admission shall be served sufficiently in advance of the discovery cut-off date to
16 permit the discovering party enough time to challenge (via motion practice)
17 responses deemed to be deficient.

18 c. **Discovery Motions**

19 Whenever possible, the Court expects the parties to resolve discovery
20 problems among themselves in a courteous, reasonable, and professional manner.
21 The Court expects that counsel will strictly adhere to the Civility and Professional
22 Guidelines adopted by the United States District Court for the Central District of
23 California in July 1995.

24 Discovery matters are referred to a United States Magistrate Judge. **Any
25 motion challenging the adequacy of responses to discovery must be filed
26 timely, and served and calendared sufficiently in advance of the discovery
27 cut-off date to permit the responses to be obtained before that date, if the
28 motion is granted.**

Consistent resort to the Court for guidance in discovery is unnecessary and will result in the appointment of a Special Master at the joint expense of the parties to resolve discovery disputes.

4. Mandatory Settlement Conference

Pursuant to Local Rule 16-15, the parties in every case must select a settlement procedure. The final meeting with the parties' settlement officer must take place no later than 45 days before the Final Pretrial Conference.

FINAL PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE ("PTC")

This case has been placed on calendar for a Final Pre-Trial Conference pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16 and 26. Unless excused for good cause, each party appearing in this action shall be represented at the Final Pre-Trial Conference, and all pre-trial meetings of counsel, by the attorney who is to have charge of the conduct of the trial on behalf of such party.

STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF
FED. R. CIV. P. 16, 26 AND LOCAL RULES ARE REQUIRED BY THE
COURT. Therefore, carefully prepared Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law, a Joint Witness List, and Joint Exhibit List shall be submitted to the Court. The Joint Witness List shall contain a brief statement of the testimony for each witness, **what makes the testimony unique** from any other witness testimony, and the time estimate for such testimony. The Joint Exhibit List shall contain any objections to authenticity and/or admissibility to the exhibit(s) and the reasons for the objections.

The Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law, Witness List, and Exhibit List are due twenty-one (21) days before the Final Pre-Trial Conference.

FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE ORDER ("PTCO")

The proposed PTCO shall be lodged seven calendar days before the PTC.

Adherence to this time requirement is necessary for in-chambers preparation of the matter. The form of the proposed PTCO shall comply with Appendix A to the Local Rules and the following:

1. Place in "all caps" and in "bold" the separately numbered headings for each category in the PTCO (e.g., 1. "**THE PARTIES**" or "7. **CLAIMS AND DEFENSES OF THE PARTIES**").

2. Include a table of contents at the beginning.

3. In specifying the surviving pleadings under section 1, state which

claims or counterclaims have been dismissed or abandoned, *e.g.*, "Plaintiff's second cause of action for breach of fiduciary duty has been dismissed." Also, in multiple party cases where not all claims or counterclaims will be prosecuted against all remaining parties on the opposing side, please specify to which party each claim or counterclaim is directed.

4. In specifying the parties' claims and defenses under section 7, each party shall closely follow the examples set forth in Appendix A of the Local Rules.

5. In drafting the PTCO, the court also expects that the parties will attempt to agree on and set forth as many non-contested facts as possible. The court will usually read the uncontested facts to the jury at the start of trial. A carefully drafted and comprehensively stated stipulation of facts will reduce the length of trial and increase jury understanding of the case.

6. In drafting the factual issues in dispute for the PTCO, the parties should attempt to state issues in ultimate fact form, not in the form of evidentiary fact issues. The issues of fact should track the elements of a claim or defense on which the jury will be required to make findings.

7. Issues of law should state legal issues on which the court will be

1 required to rule during the trial and should not list ultimate fact issues to be
2 submitted to the trier of fact.
3

4 **TRIAL PREPARATION FOR JURY TRIAL**
5 **MOTIONS, INSTRUCTIONS AND EXHIBITS**
6

7 **1. MOTIONS IN LIMINE**

8 All motions *in limine* must be filed and served a minimum of forty-five (45)
9 days prior to the scheduled trial date. Each motion should be separately filed and
10 numbered. All opposition documents must be filed and served at least twenty-five
11 (25) days prior to the scheduled trial date. All reply documents must be filed and
12 served at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled trial date.

13 All motions in limine will be ruled upon on or before the scheduled trial date.
14

15 **2. JURY INSTRUCTIONS/SPECIAL VERDICT FORMS**

16 Thirty-five (35) days before trial, plaintiff shall serve plaintiff's proposed
17 jury instructions and special verdict forms on defendant. Twenty-eight (28) days
18 before trial, defendant shall serve on plaintiff defendant's objections to plaintiff's
19 instructions together with any additional instructions defendant intends to offer.
20 Twenty-one (21) days before trial, plaintiff shall serve on defendant plaintiff's
21 objections to defendant's instructions. Twenty-one (21) days before trial, counsel
22 are ordered to meet and confer to attempt to come to agreement on the proposed
23 jury instructions. The parties shall make every attempt to agree upon the jury
24 instructions before submitting them to the Court. It is expected that counsel will
25 agree on the substantial majority of jury instructions.

26 Sixteen (16) days before trial, counsel shall file with the Court a JOINT set
27 of jury instructions on which there is agreement. Defendant's counsel has the
28 burden of preparing the joint set of jury instructions. At the same time, each party

1 shall file its proposed jury instructions which are objected to by any other party,
2 accompanied by points and authorities in support of those instructions.

3 When the parties disagree on an instruction, the party opposing the
4 instruction must attach a short statement (one to two paragraphs) supporting the
5 objection, and the party submitting the instruction must attach a short reply
6 supporting the instruction. Each statement should be on a separate page and
7 should follow directly after the disputed instruction.

8 The parties ultimately must submit one document, or if the parties disagree
9 over any proposed jury instructions, three documents. The three documents shall
10 consist of: (1) a set of Joint Proposed Jury Instructions; (2) Plaintiff's Disputed
11 Jury Instructions; and (3) Defendant's Disputed Jury Instructions. Any disputed
12 Jury Instructions shall include the reasons supporting and opposing each disputed
13 instruction in the format set forth in the previous paragraph.

14 The Court directs counsel to use the instructions from the *Manual of Model*
15 *Jury Instructions for the Ninth Circuit* where applicable. Where California law is
16 to be applied and the above instructions are not applicable, the Court prefers
17 counsel to use the California Jury Instructions in CACI. If none of these sources
18 is applicable, counsel are directed to use the instructions in Devitt, Blackmar and
19 Wolff, *Federal Jury Practice and Instructions*.

20 Modifications of instructions from the foregoing sources (or any other form
21 instructions) must specifically state the modification made to the original form
22 instruction and the authority supporting the modification.

23 Each requested instruction shall be set forth in full; be on a separate page;
24 be numbered; cover only one subject or principle of law; not repeat principles of
25 law contained in any other requested instructions; and cite the authority for a
26 source of the requested instruction. In addition to the foregoing, each party shall
27 file with the Courtroom Deputy on the first day of trial a "clean set" of the
28 aforesaid requested duplicate jury instructions in the following form: Each

requested instruction shall be set forth in full; be on a separate page with the caption "COURT'S INSTRUCTION NUMBER ____"; cover only one subject or principle of law; and not repeat principles of law contained in any other requested instruction. The "clean set" shall not cite the authority for a source of the requested instruction. Counsel shall also provide the Court with a CD in WordPerfect format containing the proposed jury instructions.

An index page shall accompany all jury instructions submitted to the Court. The index page shall indicate the following:

- the number of the instruction;
- a brief title of the instruction;
- the source of the instruction and any relevant case citation; and
- the page number of the instruction.

EXAMPLE:

<u>NO.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
5	Evidence for Limited Purpose	9 th Cir. 1.5	9

During the trial and before argument, the Court will meet with counsel and settle the instructions. Strict adherence to time requirements is necessary for the Court to examine the submissions in advance so that there will be no delay in starting the jury trial. **Failure of counsel to strictly follow the provisions of this section may subject the non-complying party and/or its attorney to sanctions and SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL in all civil cases.**

3. TRIAL EXHIBITS

Counsel are to prepare their exhibits for presentation at the trial by placing them in binders which are indexed by exhibit number with tabs or dividers on the right side. Counsel shall submit to the Court an original and one copy of the binders. The exhibits shall be in a three-ring binder labeled on the spine portion

1 of the binder as to the volume number and contain an index of each exhibit
2 included in the volume. Exhibits must be numbered in accordance with Fed. R.
3 Civ. P. 16, 26 and the Local Rules.

4 Exhibit list shall indicate which exhibits are objected to, the reason for the
5 objection, and the reason it is admissible. Failure to object will result in a waiver
6 of objection.

7 The Court requires that the following be submitted to the Courtroom
8 Deputy Clerk on the first day of trial:

- 9 • The original exhibits with the Court's exhibit tags shall be stapled to
10 the front of the exhibit on the upper right-hand corner with the case
11 number, case name, and exhibit number placed on each tag. Exhibit
12 tags can be obtained from the Clerk's Office, Room G-8, 312 North
13 Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.
- 14 • One bench book with a copy of each exhibit for use by the Court,
15 tabbed with numbers as described above. (Court's exhibit tags not
16 necessary.)
- 17 • Three (3) copies of exhibit lists.
- 18 • Three (3) copies of witness lists in the order in which the witness
19 may be called to testify.
- 20 • Counsel are ordered to submit a short joint statement of the case
21 seven (7) days before trial that the Court may read to the prospective
22 panel.
- 23 • All counsel are to meet no later than ten (10) days before trial and to
24 stipulate so far as is possible as to foundation, waiver of the best
25 evidence rule, and to those exhibits which may be received into
26 evidence at the start of trial. The exhibits to be so received will be
27 noted on the copies of the exhibit lists.
- 28 • Counsel may, but need not, submit brief proposed voir dire questions

1 for the jury seven (7) calendar days before the Pretrial Conference.

2 The Court will conduct its own voir dire after considering any
3 proposed voir dire submitted by counsel.

4 • Any items that have not been admitted into evidence and are left in
5 the courtroom overnight without prior approval will be discarded.

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7 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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9 DATED: August 3, 2015



10 Philip S. Gutierrez
11 United States District Judge

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